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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Rev. Father John McCormick, St. James Cathedral, Orlando, FL.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our Father, as men and women called to honor the Nation that You have called us to live in by our generous and public life of service, strengthen our sense of gratitude for the many blessings with which we have been endowed. We stand in this Chamber, surrounded by the many monuments and burial sites that honor all the men and women who, throughout the passing of time, have made the ultimate sacrifice that has enabled our country to be a beacon of light and goodness for all peoples.

As we begin this day of work in Your kingdom, extend Your hand of blessing and protection over the Members of this body. Hold close those who serve with honor and sacrifice in the military services and their family members whose sacrifice mirrors that of their loved ones. Bless and protect us all. Make us ever grateful for what You have done in and through each one of us. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 5, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following our remarks, there will be a period of 1 hour for Senators to speak in morning business. I have had numerous requests this week by Republicans and Democrats to speak on issues they want to address. I hope they now will come.

Following morning business, the Senate will be back on the appropriations bill we have worked on this week. I filed cloture on the bill last night and announced to the Senate that we will continue work on this until we finish it one way or the other. I hope we work out something to vote tonight. If we can't, we will do it in the morning. The filing deadline for first-degree amendments is 1 p.m. today. Rollcall votes in relation to pending amendments, of which we now have six, are expected to occur throughout the day. As those who were here last night will remember, I indicated that we had covered a wide universe of amendments. I had spoken to Senator KYL, the assistant Republican leader, and a number of

other Senators—Mr. CRAPO and Mr. INHOFE—who wanted to offer amendments. We agreed to do those. We have six amendments pending. We will see how we do disposing of amendments today. I hope we can move through them fairly quickly. I look forward to doing what I can to finish as quickly as we can.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 146

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 146 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 146) to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I see the Senator from Florida here. A constituent of his was here this morning to give the opening prayer.

I have a couple of consent agreements, I say to my friend the majority leader, that I believe are objected to on his side.

Mr. REID. I might surprise you.

Mr. McCONNELL. I will withhold on propounding these requests because I

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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